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IN MEMORIAM
SAMUEL C. PERKINS



In steel by John Sartain. Phil^a

Sam C. Perkins

R. W. Grand Master.

1872-73.

Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania,

Free and Accepted Masons

In Memoriam

Right Worshipful Grand Master

Brother

Samuel C. Perkins

1903



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GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Special Communication

Held at Philadelphia, July 17th, A. D. 1903, A. L. 5903.

Right Worshipful Grand Master, Brother EDGAR A. TENNIS, addressed Grand Lodge as follows:

“How fast they fall, those we have known,
As leaves from autumn branches
So quickly sear.
Yes, one by one, they drop away
As withered leaves they fall and stray
And disappear.”

Less than three months have passed since Grand Lodge was convened in Special Communication, to mourn the loss of a Past Grand Master and to be thus convened to-day to pay tribute to our Senior Past Grand Master, adds sorrow to hearts already pressed by grief and marks this session as most peculiar and distinctive in all our history as a Grand Body.

BROTHER SAMUEL C. PERKINS, Senior Past Grand Master of the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and Masonic Jurisdiction Thereunto Belong-

ing, was born in Philadelphia, November 14th, 1828, and died in the city of his birth July 14th, A. D. 1903, A. L. 5903.

He was our Senior Past Grand Master, having served as Grand Master in 1872 and 1873. He was also the Senior Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, having served as Grand High Priest in 1866 and 1867.

How honorably and acceptably he filled these positions, as well, all the duties of an active and useful life, will be recited at our Quarterly Communication in September next, by R. W. Past Grand Master Brother Conrad B. Day, whom I have requested to perform this duty.

Aside from the duty that may devolve upon us, to honor the memory of a Brother who has been notably eminent in the affairs of Grand Lodge, his death seems an appropriate time at which to emphasize some of the fundamental principles of our Masonic faith and notably, our belief in God, and in the Immortality of the Soul.

A reasonable amount of time may well be granted for such a purpose. Dignified silence and devout attention should be observed by all present. Much as we have to do and little as is the time allowed in which to do it, there is nothing more important than fortifying

our Masonic faith, making secure our foundations of belief and causing permanent record to be made of our convictions.

God, Immortality, and Duty are the three inspiring trumpet calls to men and Masons. The idea of Immortality is as old as the human race and as reasonable as any proposition that finds universal acceptance. Masonry did not originate the belief, though of the institutions in this world it stands oldest, to have taught this fundamental truth.

Death cannot end all ; no, no, we cannot die.
In death's unrobing room we strip from round us
The garments of mortality and earth ;
And breaking from the embryo state that bound us,
Our day of dying becomes our day of birth.

Right Worshipful Past Grand Master, Brother WILLIAM J. KELLY, addressed Grand Lodge as follows :

Right Worshipful Grand Master :

My acquaintance with Brother Perkins began forty years ago. I was then a comparatively young man in years and but an apprentice in Masonry. The inception of our acquaintance was the beginning of our friendship which has existed unbroken during all that period. I was at once impressed with the dignity of his manner, which was so pronounced as to amount to reticence, and whose habit was to affect his way of treating those with

whom he came in contact that had a distinct tendency to repel even ordinary familiarity of acquaintance. Observing him somewhat closely, for his ability was so pronounced that he never failed to command respect and attention, and being thrown in his company Masonically quite frequently, I made a study of his disposition closely and soon found that what appeared to be coldness was encased in so thin a shell that a breath would shatter it, leaving a brave, kind-hearted, broad-minded man, whose every pulsation was for the good of his fellow man and whose every effort was exerted to benefit mankind.

In his profession he was a leader, always commanding the confidence of the Courts and the respect of his colleagues of the Bar. His ability as a lawyer was enhanced by his aptitude and training as a business man, the science and intricacies of which were developed in him to a remarkable degree, and which added to his courage, both physical and moral, gave him a power in the community of most commanding importance.

His masterful management in the building of this Temple, of which he was chairman, is most gratefully remembered by us. His services to his native city in many ways, notably the erection of the Public Buildings, will remain a monument to his memory for all

time and of which anyone might indeed feel proud.

His honesty in the management of gigantic trusts with which he was connected, was never questioned and his success in their management stands as a beacon light for our guidance which makes it valuable to those who follow. He was tenacious in accomplishing whatever he undertook, overcoming any and all obstacles that so frequently spring up, and a large part of the criticisms he was compelled to endure were due to his having adopted a brusque manner to terminate interviews forced upon him for advanced information which his judgment taught him was not best to give, but with all such censure if you please, which was kept up for years, at no time was there a single intimation of dishonesty imputed to him, nor was he smirched with even a hint of doing a dishonest act.

To our Fraternity he was most devoted; with the care of a large business, with his time largely occupied with public duties, with a practical and large devotion to church duties, with a most tender regard for his family and an extraordinary attention to their comfort, true happiness and amusement, we received from him time, care and attention that was most marvelous to those who were in a position to appreciate them, and the thought comes upon me how to account for his great interest in our Fraternity. That great, strong, cultured

gentleman, steeped to his eyes in business and duties above alluded to, he yet found time and interest to be with us in season and out of season, advising, directing, and consoling in our labors and distresses with a cheerfulness and punctuality that as I have said is marvelous.

I can only conclude that the greatest mystery in our existence is raised by the life of such a man to be explained by the reason that we are a religious body without being sectarian, that an applicant for fellowship with us must believe in the existence of a Supreme Being, that sectarianism is left outside and beyond our doors, that while we meddle not with any man's religion we demand of him a belief in the Creator of Heaven and earth, that we feel a dependence on and love for Him who doeth all things well.

Brother CHARLES M. SWAIN, Senior Grand Deacon, addressed Grand Lodge as follows:

Right Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren:

Death has been busy in the last few years among the Past Grand Masters of this Grand Lodge, and now we are called upon to mourn the decease of our Senior Past Grand Master, Brother Samuel Clarke Perkins.

It was my privilege, as well as pleasure, to know him and to enjoy his friendship, our acquaintance beginning about sixteen years ago in a legal matter in which

he acted as the Counsel for the Commissioners of Fairmount Park, application having been made to the Commissioners for permission to take Rothermel's celebrated painting of the Battle of Gettysburg to Europe, and the Commission requested the parties to give bond in \$30,000 for its safe return, and it was in connection with this bond that I formed Brother Perkins' acquaintance.

On several occasions I have met him on business as the President of the Public Building Commission, and I particularly remember an interview with him in regard to a display of fireworks upon the roof of the City Hall at the celebration of the Dawn of the Twentieth Century. He was much concerned lest we might damage the Building and set it on fire, but I assured him, on behalf of the Councilmanic Committee, that we would neither blow the building up nor burn it down, and he joined with the other members of the Commission in assenting to the roof display.

For three or four years I served with him as one of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund of the Masonic Temple Loan, of which Committee he was the Chairman.

Brother Perkins was a gentleman of the "old school," and one whom you had to know very well to know him at all. His training as a lawyer and busi-

ness man and a man of affairs made him reticent, and unless you knew him well he was not apt to be communicative, but if you secured his friendship and he took a fancy to you, he was the most genial and companionable of men. Although born in the City of Philadelphia in 1828, and living here all his life, serving his city well and earning his reputation, he was proud of his New England ancestry, and frequently referred to it in the most affectionate manner. He was a man of indomitable energy and iron will, self-reliant and self-assertive, but always open to argument and considerate of the opinion of others whether they agreed with him or disagreed.

For several years he was president of the Alumni of the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania, and gave much of his time and attention to the duties which devolved upon him. Brother Perkins was no figurehead in anything with which he became connected. He entered into the discharge of his duties with zeal and fidelity, performing all duties faithfully giving the closest attention to the most minute details not only of large matters which were entrusted to his keeping, but to the ordinary small affairs which most men would hand over to subordinates for attention.

I will leave to others to speak of his great work as a member of the Presbyterian Church, but I know that

he gave largely of his time and means not only for its benefit and advancement, but to all things connected with it.

For more than fifty years he was a member of the Philadelphia Bar, having been admitted to practice in 1851. His industry and application at once placed him among the leaders, and his success as a Counsellor and Advocate were, and are, well known to the profession and the Bench. He was an able lawyer.

He was an active and honorable member of the Union League, serving as a Director for several years, and upon two occasions serving as Vice President.

Many years ago he became a member of the Commission for the erection of the Public Buildings in Philadelphia, and without detriment or disparagement to those who served with him on that Commission, it can safely be said that he was its dominant spirit. Many attempts were made for the abolition of the Commission, but Brother Perkins proved himself equal to the occasion every time, and it has only been within the past three years that the Commission was abolished and the buildings placed in the hands of the Commissioner of City Property of Philadelphia.

He was the Senior Past Master of Columbia Lodge, No. 91, in which Lodge I believe he was made a Mason. He was Senior Past High Priest of Columbia

Chapter, No. 91, and he was the Senior Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania. In 1866 and 1867 he was the Most Excellent Grand High Priest. He served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania during the years 1872 and 1873, and from that time to the present has always evinced the greatest interest in our beloved Fraternity. When he left the Chair of the Grand Master he was but forty-five years of age, being one of the youngest men who filled that position, and it has fallen to the lot of but few men to live for the space of thirty years as Past Grand Master.

As a lawyer, business man, friend and a Mason he well sustained his part in helping to carry on the work of this active, busy world, and the world has been made better by reason of such men having lived and performed their allotted task in it.

In St. Paul's Cathedral in London there is an inscription which reads "Seek ye a monument to Sir Christopher Wren? Look about you!" And so, my Brethren, if you seek a monument to Brother Samuel C. Perkins, behold our Public Buildings!

And now, after he has reached and passed the allotted three score years and ten, he has solved the mystery of death, the inevitable fate of all things living.

Brethren, let us cherish his memory and keep it

green within our recollection, and as Freemasons let us emulate his example.

“After life’s fitful fever he sleeps well.”

Brother Samuel C. Perkins, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania,

Hail and Farewell!

Brother JOHN S. STEVENS, addressed Grand Lodge as follows:

Right Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren:

Again has the Angel of Death cast the black shadow of its wing over this R. W. Grand Lodge, bringing with it a summons for a friend and Brother whom we all loved.

For more than two score years it has been my privilege to associate with Brother Samuel C. Perkins in this Grand Body.

In these long years I have learned to admire, esteem and respect him. His Brethren, appreciating his good qualities, have paid him their highest honors.

Our personal intimacy commenced when he, as Chairman of the “Building Committee” of this grand Masonic Temple, and I, as an humble artisan, aided in its erection and completion.

He was untiring in his efforts for the benefit of the Craft, giving of his valuable time, his ripe expe-

rience and his best judgment without the expectation of fee or hope of reward.

His legal knowledge and experience peculiarly fitted him for service upon the many committees and trusteeships of the Grand Lodge, while his advice and guidance was invaluable.

In private life he had a host of friends, who enjoyed and prized his friendship beyond the telling.

In his church relations he was equally honored, enjoying the respect and regard of his associates, and receiving at their hands marks of their highest commendation.

In public life he was honored, and as a faithful and conscientious official commanded and enjoyed the confidence and respect of his colleagues.

It was my good fortune to serve some years in the Public Building Commission, of which Brother Perkins was the honored President, and from my own personal knowledge I can testify to his faithfulness to the duties of the office and his willing sacrifice of time and labor for the benefit of the public that has not, and which I fear never will be, fully appreciated.

He was of a cheerful and loving disposition, enjoying his home and home life very much; and when a few years since, his wife and life-long companion was called to her rest, he mourned her loss deeply, although he

manifested a cheerful resignation to the Divine will.

Later physical affliction visited him, and his eyesight became impaired, but with it all he maintained his cheerfulness, and we seldom, if ever, heard a word of complaint.

To sum up his character, he was a Mason, a Patriot, a Christian, a faithful official, a kind and loving husband and an unselfish friend.

“God rest his soul in peace.”

**Brother WILLIAM B. HACKENBURG, addressed
Grand Lodge as follows:**

Right Worshipful Grand Master:

It may be superfluous for me to add aught to what has been so ably depicted by those who have preceded me upon the life and character of our deceased Brother Perkins, but the privilege and pleasure of a friendship covering nearly forty years prompts me in offering a few words of tribute to the memory of one whom early in my Masonic life I learned to respect and esteem.

Brother Perkins' marked lovable character, his acts and deeds are so well known in this community, that words that we may utter would be simply a repetition of the brilliant record of his patriotism and love of country, sacrifices and unselfishness in his devotion for the welfare and highest interests of his native city,

fidelity and faithfulness to every duty, public or private, that was entrusted to his care. A man with the greatest reverence for his God, full of love for his fellow beings, must be a pure, religious and moral man; these were the characteristics of the Brother whose loss we are here assembled to mourn. His every act of life proved his realization of the noblest and best principles of humanity; he looked upon "The great Brotherhood of Man" as one family, and respected every worthy member of that Fraternity.

His love for Masonry, adherence to its traditional teachings, the work he bestowed for the best interests of this Grand Lodge and for the Craft, marks a long period of notable service and usefulness in the history of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He was the staunch friend of right and justice in every form and the determined foe to anything unfair or that was dishonorable. His labors were gauged by "the plumb, level and square," the working tools of all good and true Masons; the results of his work were alike creditable to himself, to the Craft and to this great City of Philadelphia in which he lived and died, admired and respected as one of its eminent useful and honored citizens. His life is a lesson worthy of the emulation of all good and worthy men.

GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Quarterly Communication

Held at Philadelphia, September 2nd, A. D. 1903, A. E. 5903.

Right Worshipful Past Grand Master, Brother CONRAD B. DAY, addressed Grand Lodge as follows:

Right Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren of Grand Lodge:

The Angel of Death again has come into our midst and taken from us another Past Grand Master; one who was endeared to the Brethren of this Grand Lodge, by the earnestness manifested in his Masonic life, the sincerity and honesty of his convictions, mingled with a dignity of presence and graciousness of manner that was certain of commanding the respect and esteem of those who were blessed with his friendship.

The duty of preparing the Memoriam of Right Worshipful Past Grand Master Brother Samuel C. Perkins having been assigned to me, it is with misgivings of my ability that I have undertaken this sad yet pleasant duty. Sad, because of the sorrowful realities

of the present, and pleasant, by reason of the bright and happy reminiscences of the past.

It was my good fortune to have been intimately associated with our deceased Brother in the administration of the affairs of this Grand Lodge, as well as in the ordinary routine of business life. Having been an active and earnest worker, devoting the best years of his life in the service of the Craft, his memory is deserving of the most eloquent tribute that it is possible to bestow upon him.

SAMUEL CLARKE PERKINS was born in Philadelphia on November 14, 1828, and was of Revolutionary stock on his mother's side. One of his paternal ancestors, John Perkins, Sr., came from Newent, Gloucestershire, England, in 1631, and settled in Massachusetts. Some of his descendants moved to Connecticut, where Samuel H. Perkins, father of the deceased, was born. His grandfather was Samuel Perkins, of Wyndham, Connecticut. His mother was a daughter of Major Nathaniel Donnell, of Stevens' Corps of Artillery in the Revolutionary War.

On April 12, 1855, Brother Perkins was married to Mary Hooker Packard, daughter of Frederick A. and Elizabeth D. Packard, of Philadelphia. From this union resulted three children who died in early infancy.

Brother Perkins' wife died a few years ago, since

which time he has been gradually failing in health, and died on July 14, 1903, in the seventy-fifth year of his age.

At the time of his death he was the oldest Past Grand Master and Past Grand High Priest in Pennsylvania. With the passing away of Right Worshipful Past Grand Master Perkins, one of the strongest links which connected us with the past was broken.

Brother Perkins was educated at the Academy of Thomas D. James, and was fitted for college by the Reverend Willard M. Rice. He entered Yale College in September, 1844, and was graduated in 1848, being the thirty-third of his name to attain college honors in old Yale. He was Corresponding Secretary of the Yale Alumni of Pennsylvania at its organization in Philadelphia, and was elected as its President. In 1861 he received the degree of Master of Arts in Yale College and the degree of LL. D. in 1888. In 1852 the University of Pennsylvania conferred on him the degree of LL.B.

He studied law with his father, Samuel H. Perkins, and was admitted to the Bar in 1851; to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in 1853, and to the Supreme Court of the United States in 1874.

Brother Perkins had a large practice in the Orphans' Courts of this City, and was thoroughly

posted in the construction of wills and the adjudication of estates. His statements of accounts, and of distributions, were marvels of clerical neatness and accuracy, being so correctly stated that they generally met the approval of the Judges without amendment or a dissenting voice.

SERVICE AS A SOLDIER.

In April, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, First Regiment of Artillery, Home Guard. In March, 1862 he was promoted to first sergeant, in which position he served until September of the same year, when he was made first lieutenant. His company, which was Captain Landis' Light Battery, was called out for the emergency in September, 1862, and on June 24, 1863, it was again mustered into the United States service for an emergency.

SERVICE AS A CITIZEN.

In 1857 he was elected to Common Council from the Seventh Ward of the City of Philadelphia, and served one term.

He became a member of the Union League early in 1863 and served as a Director from 1869 to 1876. He was re-elected in 1879 and 1880 and from 1885 to 1889. He was Vice President from 1880 to 1883 and from 1890 to 1894.

He was Solicitor for the Commissioners of Fairmount Park from 1876 up to the time of his death.

He was a member of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia, a corresponding member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and a contributor to various law, literary and other magazines and publications.

He became a member of the Presbyterian Church when quite young. From May, 1856, until May, 1870, he was a Trustee of the First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia. He was an Elder of that church from March 21, 1870. He was a member of the Presbyterian Publication Committee from September 20, 1858, until June 30, 1870. In May, 1870, he became a member of the Presbyterian Board of Publication, and in June was elected President of the Trustees of that body. In 1871 he was a Delegate to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and in May, 1873, he was elected a Manager of the American Sunday School Union.

PRESIDENT OF BUILDING COMMISSION.

He was honored by the Legislature of Pennsylvania by appointment as one of the Commissioners for the erection of the Public Buildings in Philadelphia, and was its President from 1872 to the time of its trans-

fer to the City in 1901, during which time he served with signal ability, being conversant with all the details of the construction, and conducting the management of that immense and splendid structure, the City Hall, for the courts and public offices of Philadelphia.

A man of tremendous energy and dominating personality, he may be said to have been "the Commission." In controversies before the Legislature, with Councils and in the Courts, Brother Perkins was always the spokesman and vigorous defender of the body of which he was the President; and time after time, the Commission saved its official head or won notable victories largely under his direction.

MASONIC HISTORY.

As a youth, Brother Perkins kept the accounts of his father, Past Grand Master Brother Samuel H. Perkins, who was Chairman of the Trustees of the Girard Bequest, and the same book was used by the son, as his successor in the chairmanship of said Trustees, from 1874 to the time of the latter's decease.

He evidently remembered the occasion, when, in 1836, a number of distinguished citizens and noble Freemasons, including his respected father, were taken to Harrisburg, the seat of government of this Commonwealth, by the iniquitous proceedings of a corrupt

Legislature and a facile Governor, instigated by a person who was physically disqualified from having the degrees of Freemasonry conferred upon him and who sought vengeance upon the Fraternity by attempting to force our distinguished Brethren to reveal the secrets of the Craft.

Raised from youth to manhood with a full knowledge of these facts, it is no wonder that his inherited love for Masonry was undimmed by age and his desire for the advancement of the best interests of this Grand Lodge so great and his life so active.

SYMBOLIC MASONRY.

He was made a Mason in Columbia Lodge, No. 91, Free and Accepted Masons, in the old Washington Hall, Third Street above Spruce, at the age of twenty-two years, on April 23, 1851; his occupation as stated in his petition being a law student. He was Crafted May 26, and Raised a Master Mason June 23, 1851. He was Junior Warden 1853, Senior Warden 1854, and Worshipful Master 1855. In 1874, on the death of his father, who was then Treasurer of Lodge No. 91, he became its Treasurer, serving until 1894.

IN THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

He was a Steward of the Stephen Girard Charity Fund in 1857, 1859 and 1860; a member of the Com-

mittee on By-Laws in 1860, 1861, 1862 and its Chairman in 1864.

Chairman of Committee on Correspondence from 1864 to 1866.

Chairman of Building Committee from 1869 to 1873.

Grand Steward in 1858.

Senior Grand Deacon in 1861 and 1862.

Junior Grand Warden in 1867.

Senior Grand Warden in 1868 and 1869.

Deputy Grand Master in 1870 and 1871.

Right Worshipful Grand Master in 1872 and 1873.

During his Grand Mastership twenty-two new Lodges were constituted.

He was a Commissioner of the Sinking Fund from 1874 to 1899; a member of the Committee on Landmarks from 1870 to 1873, and from 1899 to 1903; the Representative of the Grand Lodge of Canada from 1870 to 1892; a Trustee of the Girard Bequest from 1875 to 1903, and the Representative of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana from 1873 to 1892.

During the year 1873, as Right Worshipful Grand Master, he had the honor of dedicating the New Masonic Temple, which we now occupy. As Chairman of the Building Committee of the Temple, he personally drew all the contracts and agreements for the materials

and work; as he also did for the erection of the Public Buildings, while Chairman of the Commissioners.

CAPITULAR MASONRY.

He received the honorary degree of a Mark Master Mason in Columbia Mark Lodge, No. 91, Philadelphia, on March 8, 1852, in the old Washington Hall, on Third Street. He served as Junior Warden, Senior Warden and Worshipful Master of the Mark Lodge. He was received and accepted a Most Excellent Master and exalted to the Supreme Degree of a Royal Arch Mason in Columbia Chapter, No. 91, in the Masonic Hall, Chestnut Street, on June 18, 1856; served as Scribe of the Chapter in 1858; King in 1859 and High Priest in 1860, and received the order of High Priesthood.

IN GRAND CHAPTER.

He was appointed Grand Captain of the First Vail in 1857; Grand Captain of the Host in 1861. Served on the Committee on By-Laws in 1861; Correspondence in 1868 and 1869; Appeals from 1876 to 1893.

From 1876 to 1903 he was the Representative of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana near the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania.

Grand Chapter honored him by electing him Grand Scribe in 1862 and 1863; Grand King in 1864 and 1865,

and Most Excellent Grand High Priest in 1866 and 1867.

While Grand High Priest, Royal Arch Masonry revived in Pennsylvania, and it owes its present proud condition to his inauguration of the series of Grand Visitations and to his efforts to bring about the present uniformity of work ; which have been continued by his successors in office as Grand High Priests.

CRYPTIC MASONRY.

In Cryptic Masonry he was received as a Royal and Select Master on February 3, 1862, in Philadelphia Council, No. 11, Royal and Select Masters, and received the Super Excellent Degree. He served as Principal Conductor of Work in 1864; Deputy Illustrious Grand Master in 1865, and Thrice Illustrious Grand Master in 1866.

As a Lawyer, Brother Perkins was able and eminent, learned and reliable, with a high reputation in City and State; as a Citizen, upright, public-spirited, and deservedly prominent in the City of his birth; as a Freemason, he was well versed in historic lore, a strict adherent to the Ancient Landmarks, an accomplished ritualist, and a Free and Accepted Mason in every sense; as a Man, he was kindly, courteous, affable and generous, being by birth, education and study "a gentle-

man of the old school." In all the relations of life, and in the discharge of each and every duty that devolved upon him, he was "faithful unto death."

"When I remember them, those friends of mine,
Who are no longer here, the noble three,
Who half my life were more than friends to me,
And whose discourse was like a generous wine,
I most of all remember, the divine
Something, that shone in them, and made us see
The Archetypal man, and what might be
The amplitude of nature's first design.
In vain I stretch my hands to clasp their hands;
I cannot find them.
Good night, good night, as we oft have said
Beneath this roof at midnight, in the days
That are no more, and shall no more return.
Thou hast but taken thy lamp and gone to bed,
I stay a little longer, as one stays
To cover up the embers that still burn."

Resolved, That in testimony of regard for the memory of RIGHT WORSHIPFUL PAST GRAND MASTER BROTHER SAMUEL C. PERKINS, the Stations and Jewels of this Grand Lodge be draped in mourning for six months.

District Deputy Grand Master, Brother WILLIAM B. MEREDITH, addressed Grand Lodge as follows:

Right Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren:

It is both fitting and proper that some one of the District Deputy Grand Masters should pay tribute to the memory of R. W. Past Grand Master Brother Samuel C. Perkins; but it would have been more fitting had one more intimate with his life performed that duty, but I certainly would not have allowed the occasion to pass without giving expression in such a way as to show my admiration for and appreciation of so good a man; so useful and patriotic a citizen; so ardent and distinguished a Freemason, and so devoted and sincere a Christian.

I presume my acquaintance with Past Grand Master Perkins antedates that of a very large majority of the members of the Grand Lodge present at this meeting. I was Secretary of my Lodge in 1867. While in this city I called upon the R. W. Grand Secretary, R. W. Past Grand Master Brother John Thomson, a man loved and almost revered by the Masonic Fraternity in this Jurisdiction; there I met the then R. W. Junior Grand Warden. The acquaintance thus formed continued until his death, and it is a great pleasure to say that the estimate formed of the distinguished Brother at that time never changed.

As a citizen, he occupied an exalted position. Born in this city on November 14th, 1828, receiving his primary education here, and graduating from Yale College in 1848, before reaching his twentieth year. Three years later, after having taken a course in the Legal Department of the University of Pennsylvania, he was admitted to the Philadelphia Bar, and entered upon the practice of his chosen profession, in which he attained high rank and was among the ablest Attorneys in the City. While never a political office seeker, or an active politician, he held pronounced views upon all political questions, and enjoyed the confidence and respect of politicians of all parties to a degree that is seldom accorded to any individual.

He held positions of honor in his native City; the most important in City affairs was as a member and Chairman of the Public Buildings Commission during its existence, and he was largely instrumental in giving to this City the finest municipal building in the world. He did not, however, escape the calumny and abuse which always attends those occupying public positions; yet no one has ever been able during the many years' existence of the Commission, and the many millions of money it disbursed, to point to an act that was either dishonest or illegal. The opposition to the Commission culminated in the introduction in the Legislature

in 1893 of a bill repealing the Act creating the Public Building Commission ; its introduction caused considerable excitement from the fact that a portion of the press of the State, particularly that of Philadelphia, stated the members of the Masonic Fraternity in the Legislature would combine to defeat the bill on account of Samuel C. Perkins. The Commission visited the Capital City and urged the defeat of the bill, Brother Perkins declaring it false that there was any arrangement on the part of his Masonic friends to defeat the measure, that under no circumstances would he consent to degrade Freemasonry by bringing it down to the level of politics ; that the measure must be considered solely on its merits. He felt keenly the passage of the bill, deeming it a reflection on his character for honesty and integrity.

As a Freemason he occupied a more than prominent position. From his first step he was an enthusiastic Mason, becoming deeply interested in the affairs of his Lodge, which continued until his death. He served this Grand Lodge as Grand Master during the years of 1872 and 1873, and as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter for the years 1866 and 1867, an honor that has been accorded to but few, his distinguished father being among that number. His Masonic career has been so fully covered by Past Grand Master

Brother Conrad B. Day that it is difficult to avoid repetition, hence I will enter into no details.

His energy, ability, knowledge of building and architecture placed him at the head of the Building Committee in the erection of the Masonic Temple, serving as such until its completion; thus two of the finest buildings for their particular purposes in this city, and I may say in the world, were erected under his immediate supervision, and are lasting monuments of which he was especially proud. The crowning event of his Masonic life was the dedication of the Masonic Temple on September 26, 1873. Few are present to-night who witnessed that memorable event, but those who did will never forget the magnificent Masonic spectacle, when the grandest and most beautiful Masonic Temple on earth was made the home of the Fraternity in this Jurisdiction.

His love and devotion to Freemasonry were deep seated, as is evinced in every act of his Masonic life, even from the moment he first crossed the threshold down to the day of his death. Every address on any Masonic subject showed his confidence, reliance and devotion to its principles and teachings. On December 27, 1873, in his address when retiring from the Station of R. W. Grand Master, he uses language which every Brother should read, as follows:

“But I rejoice, my Brethren, that with eyes undimmed by a single mist, I can look outward and forward and onward down through the extending ages with a firm unwavering faith in the purposes, aims and workings of our noble Craft and a deep-rooted, and may I not say hereditary, love for the Fraternity and its principles, which light up the present moment and shall continue to ever cheer and encourage me through coming years.”

His love and devotion to the principles and teachings of Freemasonry necessarily made him a devoted and sincere Christian. A member of the old First Presbyterian Church of this City, he was for many years an honored elder in that church and was prominent in Presbyterian Synod and the General Assembly of his church. It is doubtful if any layman ever rendered greater and more loyal service to his church. His learning and legal ability were such that his opinions were much sought after and were always at her disposal.

R. W. Past Grand Master Brother Samuel C. Perkins has gone from us. His whole life, even from early manhood, was such that when he lay down to the final sleep no one could say that his Brethren were unmanly when they dropped the silent tear upon his grave. From his life many lessons are to be drawn,

but one is sufficient, namely, that uprightness in walk and conversation in every avenue of life contributes to our happiness here and in the other world to a crown that awaits those who are faithful unto death.

Brother LOUIS WAGNER, addressed Grand Lodge as follows:

Right Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren:

I feel especially embarrassed upon this mournful occasion, not because I am called upon to say something in memory of our deceased Brother Samuel C. Perkins, but for the reason that I have not been able to make fitting preparation for such duty. It was only on Monday last that I returned from my vacation, and it has been impossible for me to arrange my thoughts in written form so as to be worthy of the character of our Brother whose loss we mourn, or to do justice to myself.

As I listened to the remarks by Past Grand Master Day, one or two points impressed me most deeply, and I said to myself, here is something to which I may be able to address myself, but when Brother Meredith offered his tribute, he brought out so beautifully, effectively and truthfully that of which I had been thinking that there was little thereafter to be said.

The Masonic record of Brother Perkins is known

to all of you. He was born and brought up a Mason—not one of the kind who from selfish, mercenary or other improper motives are led into the Fraternity—none of which I trust are in the Grand Lodge to-night—but he was a Mason for the good he might do to the Fraternity, to the Brethren of the Craft, to humanity in general and to the community at large. Judgment of head, goodness of heart were the marked features of his life.

The request which came to me from the Grand Master was to the effect that I should limit my remarks to Brother Perkins' character as a member of the Christian Church. Not as a Christian merely, for such a line of discussion might raise a question of discrimination between different beliefs, which I shall not, and ought not to do, and which, in fact, our Fraternity does not in any way recognize or tolerate. In Freemasonry, all such discriminations are merged in our universal fellowship and love of man for his fellow man, and whether an individual takes the Bible or the Koran as his divinely inspired book, we believe that if he exemplifies the teachings of such in his daily life, he is a better man, a better Mason, a better Christian, a better Jew, better in every way for earnestly following the religion that he accepts as his rule of living here, or for his salvation hereafter.

I, myself, happen to be a Presbyterian Elder, as was also our deceased Brother Perkins, and in that relation I knew him, and knew him well. He was always what a good, true, faithful man should be, true to his beliefs and courageous in the discharge of his duties, and to this attribute of his character I desire to place my humble word of eulogy to-night upon his tomb.

In his Christian life he was ever consistent, and I believe that through his faith and his life he was, as we all hope to be, led out of this valley of trial to a better home beyond.

Brother Perkins, as I have said, was born and bred a Mason, and I say just as truly, or even more so, he was born and bred a Christian, faithful to his God, to his charge and to the various obligations which came to him in his life. His record in the Church and in the Sunday School, where he was an active worker—always earnest and industrious—has left for us an example that it should be our daily desire conscientiously to follow, and Brother Perkins will in days to come be brighter in memory even than in those of his own generation.

It was my privilege to be associated with him as a member of the Public Building Commission, I at that time being President of Common Council. I speak

advisedly when I say that the duties of no public office were more honestly, patriotically and loyally discharged than were his, and the time will come when men and papers shall give him the full credit he deserves and which in his life-time was denied him. He was President of that Commission from its beginning to its dissolution, and he will hereafter be looked up to—and justly so—as one of our most conspicuous fellow citizens.

This Temple, also, in which to-night we are gathered, was built under his supervision when he was Grand Master, and is a monument to the same sincere fidelity and earnest purpose which characterized him in every relation of life.

Even so as he erected this great world temple, day by day, and hour by hour, he was erecting a Temple not made by hands, eternal in the Heavens, for the glory of Him who created us and to whom we must all give an account on the last day.

Shakespeare says: "The evil that men do lives after them," but with greater force and deeper spiritual interest St. John, one of the patron Saints of our Fraternity, said, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord; yea, saith the Spirit, they rest from their labors but their works do follow them." So may it be with us when this earthly toil is ended—that we also may rest

from our labors and the good work which we have done
or striven to do may continue for the benefit of
humanity.

Extract from the Minutes.

Attest :

William A. Sinn
Grand Secretary.

GRAND CHAPTER OF PENNSYLVANIA

Quarterly Communication

Held at Philadelphia, September 3rd, A. D. 1903, A. I. 2433.

Most Excellent Past Grand High Priest, Companion
ALEXANDER H. MORGAN, addressed Grand Chapter as
follows:

Most Excellent Grand High Priest and Companions:

The Fraternity of this Jurisdiction have been sorely stricken in the death of two of its most able and honored members, Brothers and Companions Michael Arnold and Samuel Clarke Perkins. Companion Arnold was a member, but not a past officer of the Grand Chapter. Due honors were paid to his memory by the Grand Lodge, and this evening the Grand Chapter will take like action of respect to Past Grand High Priest Samuel C. Perkins.

“Speak no ill of the dead.” If you cannot truly eulogize their memories let oblivion cover their history, and the weakness of human nature extenuate their faults. This is one of the unwritten laws that should, and generally does, govern mankind. But we thank the Great Architect of the Universe that we can speak

freely and without reserve of the life and doings of the lamented Companion who was an exemplification of a good man and good Mason; worthy to sit in the place of honor reserved for the Master Workman. Prominent also in that long roll of eminent men conspicuous in the history of Freemasonry in Pennsylvania, where can be found the names of many of those foremost in the several professions and occupations of public and private life; Governors of Provinces, Mayors of Cities, Statesmen, Diplomats, Judges learned in the civic and Masonic laws; the Scientist, the Philosopher, the Sage who drew the lightning from Heaven and made it subservient to the uses of mankind; honored and respected Brethren and Companions, who when they first entered into the mystic circle, and stood upon the level floor of the Masonic Lodge were divested of all civic titles, and became simply seekers of the knowledge found in the Great Light resting upon the altar of Freemasonry. But, if those men laid aside, for the time being, the evidence of worldly authority with which they had been invested by kingly power; or entrusted by their fellow citizens, yet the inherent principles of fidelity, honor and justice, nature had bestowed upon them, and which had raised them to eminence among their countrymen, remained, so that their superior attributes were recognized in the great Fraternity to

which they were allied, and they became leaders and teachers in the science of Freemasonry. And it can be truly said, without detriment to the many existing Grand Masonic Bodies, foreign or in our own country, that in the illustrious names which adorn the lists of Past Grand Officers, that of Pennsylvania is pre-eminent.

That the Companion whose life and services to the Fraternity we are reviewing this evening was among the worthiest of those who have presided over the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter there can be no doubt or question. True, his name does not appear in the world's history as a great soldier, statesman or philosopher. But, in the faithful discharge of the duties assigned him by his fellow citizens or his Brethren in Freemasonry, strict integrity, intelligence and honesty of purpose; a full conscientious appreciation of his Masonic obligations and determination to fulfil them, has never been excelled in the history of the Fraternity.

Samuel C. Perkins, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, was born in Philadelphia November 14, 1828. At the age of twenty-two years he was initiated in Columbia Lodge, No. 91. Was Worshipful Master in 1855, and also served as Treasurer for many years. He served as Junior Grand

Warden of the Grand Lodge, 1866-1867, Senior Grand Warden, 1868-1869, Deputy Grand Master, 1870-1871, and Right Worshipful Grand Master, 1872-1873.

The Honorary Degree of Mark Master Mason was conferred upon him March 8, 1852, in Columbia Mark Lodge, No. 91. He was received and accepted a Most Excellent Master Mason and Exalted to the Supreme Degree of Holy Royal Arch Mason in Columbia Chapter, No. 91, June 18, 1856. Served as Scribe in 1858, King in 1859, and High Priest in 1860. He was elected Grand Scribe of the Grand Chapter in 1861 and 1862, Grand King 1863 and 1864, and Grand High Priest 1865 and 1866.

Masonic honors seemed to be inherited from his father, Samuel H. Perkins, who was Grand Master in 1839-1840; Grand High Priest in 1832-1833. Upon the death of the father, which occurred in 1874, the son was elected Chairman of the Trustees of that noble charity, the Girard Bequest, which position he held at the time of his death, and it is not too much to say that the prosperous condition of the fund is due to the careful management of Companions Samuel H. and Samuel C. Perkins, father and son. As Chairman of the Building Commission he superintended the construction of this grand Temple, and as Grand Master he presided at the first Grand Communication held within these

walls; and in the Name of the Grand Architect of the Universe dedicated it to the uses of Freemasonry.

On Tuesday, the fourteenth day of July, 1903, our late Companion, Past Grand High Priest Samuel C. Perkins, obeyed the summons to appear before the Grand Overseer and Creator of all things and present the work done in this life, for inspection. "Full of years and full of honors," an active and useful life, an unblemished reputation, he has ceased from labor, and gone to an eternal rest.

He was cotemporary with that grand array of master workmen, the guides and leaders of the Craft in this State, in the preceding generation, and whose intellectual superiority, correct translation of the Ancient Rules, Customs and Landmarks, made this Jurisdiction to be a model and an example of pure, unadulterated Masonry. With such names as Whitney, Lescure, Bouronville, Thomson, Vaux, Lamberton and many others, that of Samuel C. Perkins will be forever associated as their peer in intellectual or practical knowledge of Symbolic and Capitular Masonry.

His administration of the office of Grand High Priest was of the most active character. The recommendation in Section 17, of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, that the Grand High Priest shall visit all the Chapters in the Jurisdiction "so far as shall be

in his power," was construed to mean what it said, and, in consequence, grand visitations were constant and unceasing to all parts of the State. At each of these visitations the Mark, Most Excellent or Royal Arch Degree was conferred or exemplified; historical or explanatory addresses made by the M. E. Grand High Priest,—some of which can be found in the extract of the Proceedings of 1865-1867, which display a profound knowledge of Royal Arch Masonry, its origin and aims, and which are worthy of the study of all those Companions who desire to reach the summit and perfection of Ancient Masonry.

Capitular Masonry flourished to a remarkable degree in this Jurisdiction while Companion Samuel C. Perkins was Grand High Priest. Sixteen Chapters were constituted, (eleven by the Grand High Priest), and an impetus given to Royal Arch Masonry which has continued to the present time, with the result of placing the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania among the foremost of existing Masonic Royal Arch Chapters; but, with the modesty and self-denial characteristic of all nobly constituted minds, he made no personal claims to the great results of his energetic devotion to the duties of his position as Grand High Priest. "I can have no regret, save that I have not been able to accomplish all I had hoped for or planned for the advance-

ment of the interests of this Grand Chapter and of Royal Arch Masonry. What it has been permitted me to do has been done willingly and cheerfully, and, as I know my own heart, with a sincere desire and purpose for the welfare and prosperity of Capitular Masonry in Pennsylvania,—for the unity, harmony and true real companionship of Royal Arch Masons within the bounds of the State.” Those are the parting words that occur in the address delivered to the Grand Chapter upon the conclusion of his official term as Grand High Priest. They are the sentiments of one whose services, both to historical and symbolic Masonry, deserve an ample page in the history of the Institution in this Jurisdiction.

Companion Perkins was distinguished for a stern belief and interpretation of the Ancient Rules, Customs and Landmarks of Freemasonry. He was one of those Past Grand Masters that served on the Committee of revision of the *Ahiman Rezon*, of which Past Grand Master Richard Vaux was chairman, which was adopted at the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, December 5, 1877; and no member of that committee or of the Fraternity of this Jurisdiction was more familiar with the provisions of that great work than himself. His aversion to innovation, or what might be called spectacular Masonry, was intense. “In Free-

masonry what is not permitted is prohibited” was the basis of his Masonic belief, and it was a rule of practice from which he never deviated. His familiarity with the laws of the Craft as laid down in the Book of Constitution which he had assisted in framing, was proverbial, and he insisted that the obligation to support, maintain and obey was as binding upon the Grand as upon the Subordinate Officers and Craftsmen. This strict, unyielding execution of the laws might also be said to be inherited from his father, Samuel H. Perkins, who, when he appeared before the Legislative Committee at Harrisburg, refused to be sworn to answer certain questions relating to Freemasonry for the following reasons :

“In the language of the subpoena I am called upon to testify my knowledge touching the evils of Freemasonry. I am a member of that society. I have discovered no evils of Freemasonry. I must therefore decline taking upon myself the obligations of the oath just tendered, and similarly protest against the right assumed.” This was the indomitable father from whom the son drew his Masonic inspiration, and it was with such material that the foundation was built upon which this great superstructure rests.

With a firm confidence in the truths of the institution of Freemasonry which no threats, no intimidation

could impair, those men would have gone to the scaffold rather than prove false to their solemn obligations.

“The man in conscious virtue bold,
Who dares his secret purpose hold,
Unshaken hears the crowd’s tumultous cries,
And the impetuous tyrant’s angry brow defies.
Let the loud winds that rule the seas
Their wild tempestuous horrors raise;
Let Jove’s dread arm with thunders rend the spheres,
Beneath the crush of worlds undaunted he appears.”

Companions,—Men are judged by actions, not by words. In the symbolic degrees we use the working tools as symbolic of the upright, unwavering man, who bends not beneath the attacks of adversity, nor yields to the temptations of prosperity, but still “pursues the even tenor of his way along the level of time.” Applying the symbolism to our late Companion we find it applicable to his upright, level and virtuous life. For many years he was the head of a public commission where great expenditures afforded opportunities of personal profit, and subject, perhaps, to almost irresistible temptations. But amidst the tainted atmosphere of municipal corruption he did not deviate from the straight line of rectitude, and the foul breath of slander never reached his spotless character, nor stained his pure, unsullied reputation.

While it may not come within the strict line of this memorial to speak of Companion Perkins' religious associations, yet we may refer to the fact that he was almost as prominent in the Christian Church as in the Masonic Temple. His name is closely associated with the history of one of the oldest congregations in this country, which had for its pastor a celebrated preacher and author of theological works, the Reverend Albert Barnes. The active, correct and cultivated mind of Companion Perkins, no doubt, was one of the adjuncts which assisted the divine in literary work, and contributed largely to his success.

In the Publication Board and in all the practical work of the church Companion Perkins was the recognized head. He was not fanatical in his religious beliefs, but, as in Freemasonry, he had no mental reservations; his words were the truthful expressions of his beliefs in all things, secular, religious or Masonic.

Companion Perkins never sought popularity, or catered for the applause of the multitude, but the calm dignity of character, strict attention and correct performance of the duties assigned him by his fellow-citizens or Brethren in Freemasonry commanded the admiration and respect that was bestowed in life and now follows his memory in death. "An honest man is the noblest work of God," and no truer epitaph

could be placed upon his tomb. Let us strive to profit by this example of a just and true life. Faithful to the obligations of the Craft, which means to God, our Brethren and ourselves, we may, like him whose life we honor and whose death we mourn, deserve the respect and approval of those who shall live after us. And when the summons comes to present the work done in this life for inspection of the Almighty Overseer, it will be accepted as good work, true work, worthy of a place in that grand Temple whose foundation is built upon the rock, and whose walls are lasting as eternity.

